



Township of North Kawartha
280 Burleigh Street, PO Box 550, Apsley, ON K0L 1A0
Tel: 705-656-4445 | 1-800-755-6931 | Fax: 705-656-4446
www.northkawartha.ca

Report to Council

To: Mayor and Council Members
From: Kelly Picken, Clerk
Date: June 18, 2026
Subject: 2026 Municipal Election – Lane Duck Periods

Recommendation:

That Council receive the Clerk's report on Lane Duck Periods.

Background:

Section 275 of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, C. 25 sets out the restricted acts that a Council shall not take after Nomination Day (August 24, 2026) and after Voting Day (October 26, 2026) if the Council is in a lane duck position.

Analysis:

The determination of whether Council is in a lane duck position occurs twice during the municipal election process.

- a) **Between August 24, 2026, and October 24, 2026:** The determination shall be based on the nominations to the new council that have been certified by the Clerk and any acclamations made. If less than three-quarters or 75% (four) of the existing members, the restrictions set out in the Act will apply.
- b) **Between October 26, 2026, to November 15, 2026:** If the election result is less than three-quarters or 75% (four) of the incumbent Councillors returning, the restrictions set out in the Act will apply.

Restrictions

If a Council is in a lane duck position, the Council shall not take any of the following actions:

- (a) The appointment or removal from office of any officer of the municipality;
- (b) The hiring or dismissal of any employee of the municipality;



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- (c) The disposition of any real or personal property of the municipality which has a value exceeding \$50,000 at the time of disposal; and
- (d) Making any expenditures or incurring any other liability which exceeds \$50,000.

Exceptions

Clauses (c) and (d) above do not apply if the disposition or liability was included in the most recent budget adopted by the council before nomination day in the election.

Emergencies

The Act provides in Section 275 (4.1) that nothing in this section prevents a municipality taking any action in the event of an emergency.

Delegation of Authority

Section 275 (6) provides that the authority of a municipality can be delegated to a person or body prior to Nomination day for the election of the new Council.

Delegating of Authority to CAO

Procedural By-Law 2026-0018 provides that authority is designated to the Chief Administrative Officer to “take action, where necessary, between Nomination Day and the commencement of the new Council term if the Council is **Lame Duck** (less than three-quarters of the members of the outgoing council). If after nomination day but before voting day, determine shall be based on the nominations so the new council that have been certified and any acclamations made to the new council; or after voting day, the determination shall be based on the declaration of the results of the election including declarations of election by acclamation. The CAO will report to Council on any actions taken.”

Determination of Lame Duck Position

The Clerk will report the nomination results to Council at the first regular meeting of Council following Nomination Day and at the first regular meeting of Council following Voting Day as to whether Council is in a lame duck position.



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Financial Implications:

n/a

Strategic and/or Other Plans:

n/a

Consultant(s) Sourced:

Shannon Hunter, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachment:

n/a